

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1286

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1938

E.O. 11652NA

TAGS: OEXC, CE

SUBJ: IVP - PARTIAL GRANT FOR DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH

1. MRS. J.P. OBEYESEKERE, DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH, WILL BE ON LONG ISLAND JULY 29-AUGUST 1 AT UNFPA-SPONSORED CONFERENCE OF PROGRAM LEADERS IN MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF FAMILY PLANNING. SHE WOULD THEN BE ABLE TO STAY ADDITIONAL 10 DAYS IN UNITED STATES UNDER IVP AUSPICES.

2. MRS. OBEYESEKERE IS LEADING GSL PROPONENT OF POPULATION POLICY AND IS CENTRAL FIGURE IN MOVE TO ESTABLISH INTER-MINISTERIAL COUNCIL TO CONSIDER IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES ON POPULATION POLICIES. SHE IS ONE OF ABLEST, MOST EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AND IS VERY CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER. SHE WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT LEADING U.S. AUTHORITIES ON RELATED ISSUES OF NUTRITION AND FAMILY PLANNING. SHE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS FOR EXPORT, AN IMPORTANT FIELD IN GOVERNMENTS DRIVE TO EXPAND NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS. (MRS. OBEYSEKERE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ESTABLISHMENT OF LAKSALA, GSL HANDICRAFT STORES FOR TOURISTS). IN VIEW SHORT STAY, TRAVEL SHOULD NOT BE EXTENSIVE.

3. THOUGH MRS. OBEYESEKERE VISITED UNITED STATES UNDER IV PROGRAM IN MID-1960'S AS MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS SHE BE GIVEN PARTIAL GRANT NOW IN CONNECTION FORTHCOMING UNFPA-SOONSORED FAMILY PLANNING

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CONFERENCE BECAUSE SHE AND HER FIELDS OF INTEREST ARE HIGHLY

INVOLVED IN SRI LANKA'S DEVELOPMENT.

4. MRS. OBEYESEKERE'S 22-YEAR-OLD SON PETER, AERONAUTICAL ENGINEER, IS EXPECTED TO BE IN UNITED STATES DURING SAME PERIOD AND SHE WOULD LIKE HIM TO ACCOMPANY HER. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE REQUEST IS UNUSUAL, WE VERY MUCH HOPE FUNDING OF SON CAN ALSO BE ACCOMMODATED.

5. IN VIEW OF AID'S STRONG INTEREST IN ISSUES OF NUTRITION AND FAMILY PLANNING, WE WOULD HOPE AID COULD HELP UNDERWRITE THIS PARTIAL GRANT, PERHAPS THROUGH WORLDWIDE FUND FOR POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING OR OTHER TITLE X CATEGORY.

6. REQUEST TELEGRAPHIC REPLY SOONEST.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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